

# Installation Configuration Profiles

🕒 2 minute read

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This page describes the built-in configuration profiles that can be used when installing Istio. The profiles provide customization of the Istio control plane and of the sidecars for the Istio data plane.

You can start with one of Istio's built-in configuration profiles and then further customize the configuration for your specific needs. The following built-in configuration profiles are currently available:

1. **default:** enables components according to the default settings of the `IstioOperator` API. This profile is recommended for production deployments and for primary clusters in a `multicluster` mesh. You can display the default settings by running the `istioctl profile dump` command.
2. **demo:** configuration designed to showcase Istio

functionality with modest resource requirements. It is suitable to run the `Bookinfo` application and associated tasks. This is the configuration that is installed with the `quick start` instructions.



This profile enables high levels of tracing and access logging so it is not suitable for performance tests.

3. **minimal**: same as the default profile, but only the control plane components are installed. This allows you to configure the control plane and data

plane components (e.g., gateways) using separate profiles.

4. **external**: used for configuring a remote cluster that is managed by an external control plane or by a control plane in a primary cluster of a multicluster mesh.
5. **empty**: deploys nothing. This can be useful as a base profile for custom configuration.
6. **preview**: the preview profile contains features that are experimental. This is intended to explore new features coming to Istio. Stability, security, and performance are not guaranteed - use at your

own risk.

Some additional vendor-specific configuration profiles are also available. For more information, refer to the [setup instructions for your platform](#).

The components marked as ✓ are installed within each profile:

	default	demo	minimal	external	empty	pre
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To further customize Istio, a number of add-on components can also be installed. Refer to [integrations](#) for more details.